



IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown in clean form below. A Marked-up Copy of the amended claims is attached.

Please cancel claim 18, without prejudice or disclaimer, and replace claims 1, 3, and 5-17, 19, and 20, with the following:

--1. (Twice Amended) A panel for an airbag of an automobile formed by integrally two-color molding a cover body made of a first synthetic resin with a main body made of a second synthetic resin which is harder than said first synthetic resin material, the panel comprising:

a joint portion joined with the cover body provided around an opening portion formed in the main body,

wherein the joint portion constitutes an overlapping portion in which an outer peripheral edge of the cover body is overlapped as being arranged on the inner side of an opening edge of the main body and the overlapping portion is welded together in two-color molding the main body with the cover body.--

--3. (Amended) The panel for an airbag according to claim 1, wherein a concavo-convex portion having a serrate shape or a downwardly convex shape is formed on a lower face of the main body in the overlapping portion.--

--5. (Twice Amended) The panel for an airbag according to claim 1, wherein a surface of a periphery of the cover body has a step portion adjacent to the rear surface of the cover body and facing the edge of the opening portion of the main body, thereby, a groove portion having a closed curve shape is formed in a boundary portion of an end portion of the opening portion of the main body in the cover body, and a first wall portion which is thin and which ruptures and a second wall portion which is at least 1.5 times as thick as the first wall

RECEIVED
MAY 30 2002
TC 1700

BY
COSTA

portion and which does not rupture at an operating time of the airbag are formed along the groove portion in the cover body in a single line shape or a shape of plural continuous lines.

Sub
C1

6. (Amended) The panel for an airbag according to claim 5, wherein the second wall portion is formed into a shape so as to have one transverse line on an upper or lower side of the cover body, and the first wall portion is formed in a quadrilateral shape with one side opened along the groove portion in three directions except for the transverse line forming the non-thin wall portion.

BS

7. (Amended) The panel for an airbag according to claim 5, wherein the second wall portion is formed into a shape so as to have one transverse line on an upper or lower side of the cover body and the first wall portion is formed along an entire periphery of the groove portion such that a line forming the second wall portion is included in an inner side.

8. (Amended) The panel for an airbag according to claim 5,
wherein the second wall portion can be formed into a shape so as to have one transverse line on each of upper and lower sides of the cover body, and the first wall portion is formed into a shape so as to have one longitudinal line on each of left-hand and right-hand sides of the cover body;

wherein a third wall portion which is thin and which is not formed along the groove portion is formed into a shape so as to have one transverse line in a central portion of the cover body; and

wherein the first and third wall portions are formed into an H-shape.

9. (Amended) The panel according for an airbag to claim 5,
wherein the second wall portion is formed into a shape so as to have one transverse line on each of upper and lower sides of the cover body, and the first wall portion is formed

along an entire periphery of the groove portion such that a line forming the second wall portion is included in an inner side;

wherein a third wall portion which is thin and which is not formed along the groove portion is formed into a shape so as to have one transverse line in a central portion of the cover body; and

wherein the first and third wall portions are formed into a shape in which two quadrilaterals are lined up.

10. (Amended) The panel for an airbag according to claim 5,

wherein the second wall portion is formed into a shape so as to have one longitudinal line on each of left-hand and right-hand sides of the cover body, and the first wall portion is formed into a shape so as to have one transverse line on each of upper and lower sides of the cover body;

wherein a third wall portion which is thin and which is not formed along the groove portion is formed into a shape so as to have one longitudinal line in a central portion of the cover; and

wherein the first and third wall portions are formed into an H-shape.

11. (Amended) The panel for an airbag according to claim 5,

wherein the second wall portion is formed into a shape so as to have one longitudinal line on each of left-hand and right-hand sides of the cover body, and the first wall portion is formed along an entire periphery of the groove portion such that a line forming the second portion is included with an inner side;

wherein a third wall portion is not formed along the groove portion but is formed into a shape so as to have one longitudinal line in a central portion of the cover body; and

BS
call
Sul
D2

wherein the first and third wall portions are formed into a shape in which two quadrilaterals are lined up.

12. (Amended) The panel for an airbag according to claim 5, further comprising a rib projecting into the second wall portion and connected to the airbag case through a connecting member.

13. (Twice Amended) A panel for an airbag of an automobile formed by integrally molding a cover body made of a first synthetic resin which is soft with a main body made of a second synthetic resin which is harder than the first synthetic resin, the panel comprising:

BE
Sul
a

a joint portion joined with the cover body provided around an opening portion formed in the main body,

wherein the joint portion constitutes an overlapping portion in which an outer peripheral edge of the cover body is overlapped as being arranged on the inner side of an opening edge of the main body, and the opening edge of the opening portion of the main body is connected to the outer peripheral edge of the cover body.

14. (Amended) A panel for an airbag of an automobile comprising:

a cover body made of a first synthetic resin material which is soft;

B7

a main body made of a second synthetic resin material which is harder than the first synthetic resin material and which is compatible with the first synthetic resin material, the main body being formed by two-color molding after forming the cover body; and

a deformation restricting portion provided at the outer peripheral edge of the cover body and engaged with a mold face,

wherein the main body includes an opening portion which is closed by the cover body; and

wherein the deformation restricting portion restricts deformation of the cover body caused by a molding pressure which acts at a molding time of the main body.

15. (Amended) The panel for an airbag according to claim 14, wherein the deformation restricting portion is constituted of a convex strip having either an angular cross section or a concave groove.

16. (Amended) A panel for an airbag of an automobile comprising:
a main body having an opening portion, the main body being made of a first synthetic resin material;

a cover body made of a second synthetic resin material which is harder than the first synthetic resin material and which is compatible with the first synthetic resin material, the cover body being formed by two-color molding after forming the main body; and

a deformation restricting portion provided at the periphery of the opening portion and engaged with a mold face,

wherein the opening portion of the main body is closed by the cover body; and
(above element 11 in Fig. 1)
wherein the deformation restricting portion restricts deformation of the cover body caused by a molding pressure which acts at a molding time of the main body.

17. (Amended) The panel for an airbag according to claim 16, wherein the deformation restricting portion is a convex strip having either an angular cross section or a concave groove.--

[18. (Canceled).]

--19. (Amended) The panel for an airbag according to claim 5, further comprising:
a rib projecting into the cover body on the rear face of a portion in which no first wall portion is formed; and

a connecting member is made of a metal, extends from a side of the main body, and is connected to the rib; and

a projection formed on a surface of the connecting member, the projection biting into a surface of the rib when the connecting member is connected to the rib.

20. (Amended) A method for producing a panel for an airbag of an automobile formed by integrally molding a cover body made of a first synthetic resin which is soft with a main body made of a second synthetic resin which is harder than the first synthetic resin, the method comprising:

preparing a thermoplastic material having compatibility with each of the first synthetic resin and second synthetic resin forming each of the main body and the cover body, respectively;

arranging a movable core in a male or a female die as a mold;

interrupting a portion between a first cavity portion for forming a first member and a second cavity portion for forming a second member by allowing the core to project and contact an opposite one of the male or female die;

injecting a material of the first member into the first cavity portion;

forming a communicating portion between the first and second cavity portions by retreating the core; and

injecting a material of the second member into the second cavity portion and the communicating portion so that an overlapping portion of both the first and second members is formed and adhered and both the first and second members are integrally made.--

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendment and the following discussion, is respectfully requested.